



Ø BEAT



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COLORADO

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MEETING NOTICE - Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association will meet this month on July 14th at 7:30 P.M in the Security Savings & Loan Building, East Platte at Union Boulevard. Any person interested in Amateur radio is invited to attend.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Bill Croghan, WBØKSW: We've had a busy month for Amateur Radio. Field Day kept about 30 of us hopping and it looks unofficially like about 4000 points. The weekend of the 4th saw two events. First the Confederate Air Force Airshow and second, the Pikes Peak Hill Climb. My thanks to Vince, WB2JDJ and Chas, WBØOCJ for jobs well done. Still to come is the Pikes Peak Marathon Run, August 1st. Help is needed at the top, bottom and two locations in between. Contact me or Mike, KØTER (formerly WBØHCK).

FCC'S FIRST ACTION ON RESTRUCTURING was taken in mid-June and Novices and Technicians became the principal beneficiaries. This first Report and Order on Docket 20282 liberalizes both license classes' privileges but appears to reject the "Dual Ladder" approach to restructuring that was such an integral part of the docket's original philosophy.

Technician Class licensees receive the most significant benefit in the form of full Novice privileges -- CW on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters. No other Technician privileges were changed at this time, so it's still possible that 10 meter phone and/or expansion of Technician frequencies on the bottom of two or six meters may be part of expected later actions on 20282. Technician exams will no longer be "mail order," either -- the Report and Order makes administration of Tech exams an FCC Field office job.

Novices receive two benefits under the just announced Rules changes. Power limits for Novices have been raised to 250 watts, and a Novice who has failed to upgrade during his two-year license term will be permitted to continue as a Novice by taking another Novice exam -- the requirement for a one-year delay before going for another Novice license has been dropped. The new 250 watt Novice power limit actually applies to Novice frequencies, by the way -- any

U.S. POSTAL
7 PM

ZERO BEAT

Published in the interest of the members
of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association
Inc. Colorado Springs, Colorado

R. Charles Smith, WAØZZS
Editor, Phone 635-7353



Address all items and exchanges to:
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The PPRAA meets at 7:30 P.M. on the second
Wednesday of each month in the Security
Savings & Loan Building, East Platte at
Union Boulevard.

PPRAA DIRECTORS

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station operating in the Novice sub bands will be limited to 250 watts regardless of what class license he holds.

All "Mail Order" Amateur exams except Novice are effectively being eliminated. The one exception that will remain is for an applicant who cannot travel because of medical reasons and who can back it up with a physician's statement. All others (except Novices) will be required to take their exams at an FCC Field Office, regardless of the distance which they may have to travel to get there.

All present Conditional and Technician (C) license holders will be "grandfathered" into straight Technician and General Class licenses as their present licenses come up for renewal. No reexaminations will be required, which should make at least a few present license holders breathe easier!

The effective date for the new Rules changes is July 23 -- a nice "Christmas in July" present from the FCC!

HR REPORT

JUNE MINUTES by Bart Hayhurst, WAØYOH, Secretary - The meeting was called to order by President Bill Croghan, WBØKSW at 7:40 P.M. with 26 members and guests attending. Dean Jaynes, WAØPJH, Treasurer reported a treasury balance of \$410.20. Dean offered wood to be cut from his land for club money. Mike Stansberry, WØTER to head up the committee. Dean also reported we have 62

members as of this date.....Chuck Waltman, WAØNBZ reported beginning level classes for Novice license to start in the fall.....Mike Stansberry organized efforts for Field Day. Brad, WBØOYX reported on transmitter hunt starting at Channel Cat. The next transmitter hunt will be in August or September.....Bill Croghan asked for more stories for ZERO BEAT.....Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 P.M.


A NEW REPEATER will soon be on the air serving a large area of the western slope of Colorado. The Ski Country Radio Club, based in the Glenwood Springs area, this month completed equipment testing on its new 146.28/88 machine which will soon be placed in 24 hour operation at the summit of Sunlight Peak southwest of Glenwood. According to correspondent WBØNLW, Dave in Rifle, preliminary tests from a much lower altitude show coverage from the high site should be from Vail Pass on the east to hilltops near Grand Junction. The Sunlight machine should be a welcome addition to the Colorado repeater list.

ROCKY MT. RADIO LEAGUE NEWSLETTER

TETON DAM DISASTER in June showed the real value of Amateur Radio for emergency communications. Within minutes of the dam break Amateurs had mobilized emergency nets on 75, 40 and 2 meters. At least 100 Amateurs are estimated to have participated in the field, with hundreds more active from their home stations. Both KBOI (Boise) and KSL (Salt Lake City) put Amateur stations in their studios to provide live reports, and for many communities Amateur Radio provided their only link to the outside for hours after the flood struck. Amateur volunteers were not only local residents -- several dozen from Utah piled into their cars and drove to the scene when local operators showed signs they were tiring, and KSL even gave staff Amateurs time off to go. PR value to Amateur Radio was tremendous, with frequent references to Amateur Radio's contribution on both local and network news reports.

HR REPORT

REPEATER OPERATORS SUPPORTED ARRL'S concept of national repeater coordination but were less than enthusiastic about heavy League involvement in a formal plan. A preliminary tabulation of the first 600 or so responses shows that four out of five of the respondees agree that a national frequency coordinating plan is needed and support the ARRL's approach to it. The problem lies in who would administer such a plan and how it would be supported, since just over half don't want it funded by the League and a resounding 70% reject the



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idea of requiring the coordinators to be ARRL members. How big a club the repeater operators are willing to let coordinators wield is also in question, less than two-thirds want the coordinators to have some sort of quasi-official FCC sanction, and ever fewer supported the idea of requiring coordination as a condition of repeater licensing.

Though these first returns are only a sample of the nation's repeater operators they are certainly a good enough sample to indicate a trend -- the 600 returns cover about 700 repeaters that serve about 50,000 users. Some other interesting results of the repeater survey data are that less than two-thirds of the reporting systems belong to repeater councils, though over 90% report their channels were frequency coordinated. Over a third of the systems have auto patch, and another third are planning to add it. Over two-thirds have emergency power.

HR REPORT

ARRL ISN'T THE ONLY RADIO GROUP holding its convention in Colorado in mid-July. The fifth annual National Sideband Convention opens July 16 in Colorado Springs for three days and has a Kenwood 350 for the main door prize. Talk is on 27.375!

HR REPORT

"SNAP-PACK" NICADS ARE ON THE WAY from General Electric sometime in July -- here will be a system that will include battery holders, mini-chargers and all in a package, or separately. Holders will be for 4 AA batteries or 2 C or D size cells. GE is betting you'll never buy another disposable battery after this item hits the shelves!

LEARN REPEATER NEWSLETTER

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FIRE COMMUNICATIONS PROVIDED. On Friday, June 11th a forest fire broke out north of Boulder Canyon and west of Boulder. The fire quickly became the largest forest fire in recent Boulder County history, involving all of the mountain volunteer fire companies, the Boulder County Sheriff's Department, both the State and U.S. Forest Services, and many other public service groups. Several RMVHFS members were the first on the scene providing communications for the fire crews via the WRØADA repeater, and as the evening progressed many more appeared on the scene to offer their services. Then the fire was over, we had provided the backbone of communications for the crews on the fire lines. By the time Sunday had rolled around, over thirty amateurs had served in fighting the fire.

Later conversations with Bill McCaa, Jr., KØRZJ and staff members of the Boulder County Sheriff's Department indicate that they were pleased with our performance and extend their thanks to all those who took part. KØRZJ is a founding member of the RMVHFS and is Director of the Boulder Regional Public Safety Communications Authority. It is interesting to note that we were allowed through the road blocks set up at the start of the fire based on our reputation, and that CB'ers were not allowed through, based on their past record of performance within the County. Steps have been taken to cover this problem in the future and some of us have been issued I.D. cards by the Sheriff's Department for future use in such operations.

BOULDER QSP

KL7EOK'S HANG GLIDER FLIGHT from Mount McKinley also resulted in good two meter DX, reports K7MWC/KL7. Bob's Heathkit hand-held and rubber ducky worked many stations out to 300 miles on 146.94 as he descended. Bob set four world records during his 30 minute descent from the peak to the 7000 foot level.

HR REPORT

OUTSTANDING VHF PROPAGATION is making the current news with some real DX openings beginning late Field Day weekend. First report of the opening was when W1VV/1 was heard in Florida on two meter SSB Sunday afternoon, and from then on the band just go better and better. KLHTV reported working 17 different Texas stations--the furthest a good 1510 miles from Rich's Connecticut QTH--plus others in Louisiana and Mississippi. Other two meter DXers were equally lucky, with many from the midwest working up and down most of the east coast.

Tuesday morning (June 29th) excitement began on the west coast when some Hawaiian repeaters started breaking through into the San Diego area. Some of the more ambitious KH6s took portable gear up the Hawaiian mountainsides to work back to the mainland direct, and later in the day even Los Angeles mobiles were working the Islands! Apparently all the action was on two meters, however--no reports of ocean spanning QSOs on either 220 or 432 MHz have been received as of presstime.

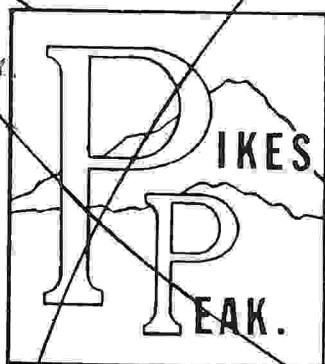
HR REPORT

CODE COMPREHENSION will replace hard copy in FCC Amateur exams but when is still up in the air. FCC's test programs show use of code comprehension raised the number of applicants passing the CW portion of the exam from 50% to 80%. Delay in implementing the new exams is primarily budgetary, but when new code cassettes and exams can be made available the new procedure will be introduced nationally.

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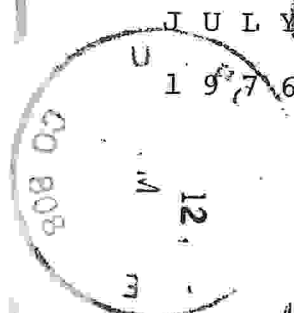
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